

INFARM AND GARDEN

Subjects of Interest to Farmers and Breeders.

THE BEST BREEDS OF SWINE.

Suggestions and Selection and Breeding—The Management of the General Herd—Other Notes.

There is rarely very little preference as to the improved breeds, all being about equally healthy, good feeders, prolific and profitable, whether the selection be Poland-Chinas, Chester Whites, Duroc Jerseys or Victorias. Western Agriculturists say, very truly, that one may favor his preference as to color, size, etc., and not go against the interests of his pocketbook. Some breeds, as the Chester, Suffolks and Yorkshires, are more predisposed to fat, while others, the Poland-China, Berkshire and, by some, the Cheviot, are as much inclined towards lean—a valuable characteristic, as the taste now tends nowadays. For the rougher usage of a new country where the hog must range the Jersey stands pre-eminent; but among the farmers of central Illinois nothing rivals the Poland-China for all conditions and purposes. It is also claimed that the white hogs, notably the Chesters, are not so well adapted to "roughing it" as the darker, and such is my experience. Crossing the Poland-China or Berkshire upon good native sows begets a good, hardy grade and profitable as well. For the nowadays popular "crowding process" this Poland-China grade seems the favorite, the pure blood and that of the Berkshires being reckoned valuable likewise in this respect. Many claim equal excellence in the Duroc-Jersey for this purpose, being besides a more hardy and vigorous feeder, eating and thriving on coarse food—grass, roots, clover, apples, etc., and coming to the corn crib with a healthy body and strong in bone and sinew and muscle.

Having determined upon your breed, use care and judgment in selection of breeders and mode of breeding. While careful selection is important in breeding all domestic animals, it is especially so with swine. In selecting breeders the greatest care ought to be observed in regard to form, constitutional vigor, quietness of disposition and predisposition to disease. The whole secret in the breeding of so-called "cholesterol proof" hogs lies in the careful selection and breeding.

For the row, select one of quiet and kindly disposition, a good feeder and grazer, great length of body, broad over loins, short in legs, having twelve good teeth and especially of good constitution and perfectly healthy.

In the management of the general herd the first and greatest mistake, says the authority quoted, is in feeding the hogs exclusively on corn, and stuffing them to repletion with it. The hog, or any other animal, cannot be healthily thrifty when fed exclusively for fat, to the detriment of bone and muscle, and this is what a diet of corn gives.

For feed, in summer, see that they have plenty of grass or clover—the last especially; one acre of clover, one year set, will do for seven full grown hogs. They will also eat well of clover hay, and should always have a little before them to pick from in winter. For dry feed, feed roots and vegetables and small grain, and but little corn until fattening for the butcher, when more corn may be fed. Along with roots, potatoes, not with sprouts on, turnips, rutabagas and beets are fed, while parsnips are equally relished. Turnips, raw or cooked, are a splendid lean meat feed; five bushels, cooked, and half a bushel of rye, mixed, make a good feed for fifteen grown hogs; potatoes and beets are also best cooked. Pumpkins, too, fed raw, are excellent as well as cheap food for swine. Oats, barley and rye, in small quantities, unless ground or steamed, are good feed among small grains.

Finally, see that the hogs have an abundance of good drinking water summer and winter.

Chicken Lice

The most effective agents for killing chicken lice are kerosene, insect powder and grease. The first step is to thoroughly clean out the henhouse and kill the insects that are there. For this nothing is better than thoroughly spraying all places harboring them with kerosene. More than once will be required, and this should be repeated during the summer. Dusting the hen in the nests with air slacked lime, in which you have put a few drops of carbolic acid, will help to keep them free. There are several kinds of the lice, but all may be fought with the same weapons. The ones most noticed are the little red mites that swarm everywhere. There is also a larger insect that works on the head and neck only. Greasing the top of the head and neck with lard oil in which there is a little kerosene is the remedy for this species. In general, take each fowl by the legs and dust plenty of insect powder among the feathers and apply grease to the head and legs, with a little under the wings. Too much grease is hurtful, and on small chicks it should be used sparingly. No danger need be apprehended from the insect powder, which should be used on setting hens several times during their incubation.

Does Heating Milk Affect the Butter?

Experimental studies of the question, "Does heating milk affect the quality or quantity of butter?" at Cornell University, show the following results: First, that there is a loss of butter when the milk is allowed to cool much below the normal heat of the cow before being put in the creamer; second, that while there may not be any very great increase of butter when the milk is heated, there is no risk of injuring the quality of the butter by incorporating an excess of casein, even when the milk is heated as high as 135 degs.

Clean cultivation is the best remedy for the root plant louse in the apple orchard, says a Kansas orchardist. Keep it up till the 1st of August, then the scyth should be used to keep the weeds down.

IRON CLAD APPLES.

Desirable Hardy Apples Recommended by a Well Known Authority.

"Iron clad" is a name properly applied to apples of a constitution to resist not only the cold of the northeast, but the blight and the violent changes of more westward localities. The list of really

desirable iron clad is consequently a comparatively short one. T. H. Hoskins, of Vermont, who has had an experience of nearly a quarter of a century, names in Vick's Magazine a few of the best iron clad known.

Of the native Canadian apples very few, if any, are so hardy away from the protective influence of the sea, the St. Lawrence river, and the lakes as to entitle them to rank as true iron clad. The most desirable of them are the Fameuse and some of its seedlings.

The Canada Baldwin is of the Fameuse type and size, but it is a very much longer keeper, quite equal to the American Baldwin in that respect, but otherwise bearing small resemblance. Its quality is very good for any use. It succeeds best on a strong soil. Fameuse Sucree is of Fameuse size, but more oblate and darker in color, being a rosewood red. It has both acid and sweet in its composition, and its strawberries and cream flavor make it a superior dessert fruit of its season, September and October.

Among Vermont apples entitled to class as iron clad, the Bethel stands first in size, beauty, quality and keeping, being superior to the Baldwin in all; but it has the fault of the Northern Spy, slowness to come to full bearing. Otherwise it would be very extensively planted. Scott's Winter is another Vermont iron clad, of only medium size, but bearing young and freely. It is a long keeper, quite acid and hard until March, then becoming softer and milder, and being good until July. Northfield Beauty claims a Crab origin, like the Wealthy, and is fully as good a fruit, but not quite so good a keeper, nor so reliably productive. It is above medium in size, nicely striped with carmine on a yellow skin.

Among western iron clad, Wealthy stands at the head, and is quite at home in all northern New England and Canada. It is a fairly good keeper if gathered early and placed at once in a cool cellar; but otherwise handled it hardly lasts longer than Fameuse.

McMahon's White is a true iron clad, the only one yet received from Wisconsin. While pretty hardy, it will not stand the occasional test winters, the endurance of which alone accords that title. McMahon is a large and handsome pale green fruit with a faint pink cheek. The tree is vigorous and productive, comes young to bearing, and has all the characteristics of a good orchard tree. The fruit is excellent for culinary use, but only fair to eat out of hand. Its season is late fall and early winter.

Iowa Russet is among the hardest of russets. It is but partially russeted and has a pink cheek. In size it is rather above the Golden Russet of Western New York, which is supposed to be its parent, and it is much better in quality, a good keeper, and deserves more attention than it has yet received.

Removing Stumps.

It is no easy matter to remove green stumps from a newly cleared field, and to do so at once for any considerable number will be found to cost more than the use of the land they occupy will be worth, until they have decayed, so that their removal by fire or otherwise will be comparatively easy. Stumps that have partly decayed roots can often be twisted out by placing the largest end of a long and stout piece of timber against the side of the stump and chaining it fast, then with a team at the other end of the lever pulling in the direction of a circle around it. A method that has been recommended is to bore a hole as deep as you can down in the center of the stump in the fall and put in two ounces of saltpeter and fill the hole with water and plug it up.

In the spring remove the plug and fill with kerosene oil and afterwards ignite it. This, it is said, will cause the stump to smolder away entirely. The experiment is one that can easily be tried. There is no doubt that saturating a seasoned stump with oil by boring into it or otherwise will greatly facilitate its burning. As a general thing it will be found best to leave green stumps to season and then destroy them as fast as you can with fire. Stumps are expeditiously blown out with dynamite, but few farmers care to handle this explosive. When expense is no object patent stump pullers may be resorted to.

Turnips as Food for Poultry.

As winter food for poultry, the turnip gives good results, fed in the cooked state. If a mass of turnips and grain be fed, the hens will keep in better condition and lay a greater number of eggs than when grain alone is fed. The poultryman will some day know that, when he feeds a mixed diet of turnips, chopped clover and other bulky food, with only enough grain to balance the rations, as is done for the cow, he will get better results, and at a lower cost.

Here and There.

It is not the breed so much as the feed; it is not the feed so much as the care, but the better the breed, the better the feed, and the better the care the better will be the results. Luck has little to do with it.

For a poultry house the best floor is cement; then use plenty of dry soil as a deodorizer. Or, if the dry soil has not been provided when winter comes, use sifted coal ashes.

Applications of liquid manure may be made to plants throughout the growing season with wonderful results. It should be applied often, in a weak state.

The Rural New Yorker says: Would you rid your lawn of plantain? Wait until after a heavy rain. Then gather all the leaves of the plantain, taking a hold as near the "crown" as possible. Pull steadily and, in nine cases out of ten, the roots will come up entire.

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